

during the year from Relief Funds 80 ministers, 158 widows, and 25 orphans, to the amount of \$52,773.86, the largest amount ever so administered in one year.

(4) Through the abounding liberality and inspiring example of one of our ruling elders, coupled with the wise and efficient labors of our executive secretary, the year past has seen the Endowment Fund for Ministerial Relief increased to the sum of \$543,651.53.

(5) The Student Loan Fund has been increased since the last annual report of the committee by only \$3,756.39. From this fund sixty-six of our young people were, this past year, assisted by loans to attend Presbyterian schools. Sixty applications for loans had to be declined because of the insufficiency of the fund.

(6) Under the heading, "Schools and Colleges," the committee's report, while setting forth the educational program of that body (which is in all respects most excellent) cites us to the undoubted fact that our schools and colleges are, practically without exception, face to face with the most serious crisis of their existence. The time has come when all educational institutions are forced to conform in curriculum, equipment and teaching force to standards recommended by various agencies and generally accepted by all classes alike as right and proper. They must conform to these standards or else find themselves discredited before the public and left destitute of students, who, turning to State and other standard institutions, at one and the same time will leave our schools and colleges without patronage, will themselves be without the wholesome and beneficent influences of training in Christian schools, and will cut off from the Church that steady influx to her ranks of active workers of men and women educated and trained in her own schools to cherish her own ideals and to magnify her Lord. To conform to standard requirements our schools and colleges must receive a large increase of funds both for equipment and for endowment. Practically all the great evangelical churches of this country show their understanding of the vital importance of the Church school and of the unusual crisis which faces these institutions, by seeking during this year, which marks the four hundredth anniversary of the Reformation, to add from one to thirty-six millions dollars to their respective assets for education. From the minutes of our own Committee on Systematic Beneficence it is learned that it is the deliberate judgment of that group of able and painstaking students of the life of our Church that "the equipment and endowment of our educational institutions is the most important need of the Church at this hour."

From the report of the Mountain Retreat Association we bring to your attention the following facts:

(1) The damage to property suffered last summer by flood has been repaired.

(2) The Montreat Normal School has had an encouraging first year.

(3) The association needs a more convenient and commodious auditorium.

(4) The conferences are planned for the coming summer to be, if possible, more helpful than ever before. The report of the Training Schools for Lay Workers furnishes the following interesting facts:

(1) There have been seventy students in attendance on the school for the past year, thirty-five boarding and thirty-five local.

(2) Diplomas and certificates were awarded this year to eleven persons for work done in this school, and all the graduates were at once appointed to positions of service throughout the Church, nor was their number equal to the demand for such trained workers.

(3) The obligation of the Presbyterian League of the city of Richmond to maintain the school for three years expires June 1, 1917, so that the running expense of about \$6,000.00 must needs be provided from some other source for the coming year.

(4) The most urgent need of this institution is a building to house it and its rapidly increasing number of students, such a building would probably cost something like \$75,000. A lot estimated to be worth approximately \$15,000 has been offered the school in the city of Richmond as soon as money is provided to erect a building.

(5) The Board of Managers has secured an amendment to their charter, which secures to the Assembly the ownership and control of the school beyond peradventure.

(6) The faculty for the coming year is as follows: Rev. William Megginson, dean, Christian Doctrine and English Bible; Rev. Walter W. Moore, D. D., English Bible, Old Testament; Rev. Edward Mack, D. D., English Bible, Old Testament; Rev. Eugene C. Caldwell, D. D., English Bible, New Testament; Mrs. John Russell Sampson, English Bible, New Testament and Missions; Rev. Russell Cecil, D. D., Church History; Miss Katherine Heath Hawes, Social Questions and Christian Ethics; Rev. Walter L. Lingle, D. D., Sunday-school Pedagogy; Miss Anna Branch Binford, Sunday-school Pedagogy; Teen Age Specialist; Miss Elizabeth McE. Shields, Sunday-school Pedagogy, Elementary Division; Rev. O. E. Buchholz, Christian Missions; Mr. Wade C. Smith, Personal Evangelism and Stewardship; Miss Pauline Williamson Grant, Organized Women's Work; W. B. Lorraine, M. D., Director of Medical Course.

(1) That overture 63 from Brazos Presbytery, asking for a return of the old method of giving aid to candidates for the ministry, be answered in the negative, but that the present limit of a salary of \$1,000 as the basis for credit on loans to candidates from the Executive Committee be changed to \$1,000 and a manse or \$1,200 without a manse.

(2) That overture 82 from North Alabama Presbytery, asking the Assembly to set apart a day to be observed by our Sunday-schools in the interest of Christian Education and Ministerial Relief, be answered in the affirmative, and that the Sabbath nearest to Christmas of each year be set apart to be so observed.

(3) That the following Board of Managers of the Assembly's Training School for Lay Workers be appointed for a term of one year: F. T. McFaden, D. D., H. H. Sweets, D. D., S. H. Chester, D. D., Homer McMillan, D. D., Mr. R. E. Magill, Mr. Robert M. Friend, Rev. William Megginson, W. B. Lorraine, M. D., J. L. Howe, Ph. D., S. Nye Hutchinson, D. D., J. S. Lyons, D. D., and W. L. Lingle, D. D.

(4) That the faculty selected by the Board of Managers for the coming year be approved.

(5) That the Assembly again commend the School for Lay Workers to the generosity of our people and earnestly show their attention to the splendid opportunity for invaluable service, which lies in properly equipping and supporting this institution.

(6) That the Board of Managers and the four Executive Committees of the Assembly be requested to devise a form of government for the Training School which will be in line with the educational policy of the Assembly, and devise also a plan of support for the institution and report to the next Assembly.

(7) That the change in charter of the Training School as set forth in the report of the managers be approved.

(8) That the Assembly hereby put on record its appreciation of the liberality of the Presbyterian League of the city of Richmond in supporting the Training School for three years without expense to us; and of the splendid services of the faculty of that school, given without money and without price.

(9) That the report of the Board of Managers be printed in the appendix of the Assembly's minutes.

(10) That the Mountain Retreat Association be encouraged to provide itself, at the earliest practicable time, with an adequate and fitting auditorium.

(11) That this association hereafter, if it have report for the Assembly, make such report direct to that body, instead of through the Executive Committee of Christian Education and Ministerial Relief.

(12) That parents in our Church be earnestly exhorted to consecrate their sons to the gospel ministry, and that our pastors and Sunday-school teachers be urged to keep the claims of the ministry as a life's work constantly before the boys and young men of the Church.

(13) That the Assembly put on record its appreciation of the liberality of the ruling elder whose large gift made possible the great increase of our Endowment Fund for Ministerial Relief realized in the past year, and though his name be with-

held, in deference to his wishes, from a place in these minutes we commend him to God and the abundant riches of His grace.

(14) That the Executive Committee, at such time and by such means as may seem wisest to itself, be encouraged to endeavor to bring the Endowment Fund for Ministerial Relief up to one million dollars.

(15) That this Assembly urgently lay upon the Synods the imperatively pressing needs of our educational institutions, and earnestly entreat them to persevere in measures to provide for these necessities, where measures have been taken, and where not, to inaugurate them with the least possible delay, appealing to all our people to signalize the conclusion of four hundred years of Reformed life in the Church by mighty forward strides in our educational equipment.

(16) That the Executive Committee of Christian Education be urged to be constantly mindful of the interest of our many young people attending States institutions and seek to devise effective means for keeping them in touch with our Church and under positive Christian influence.

(17) That the Assembly set apart the last Sunday of February, 1918, and the week preceding it as the day and week of prayer for schools and colleges and youth gathered in them and that our pastors and people be requested faithfully to observe them.

(18) That the following be appointed to the Assembly's Permanent Advisory Committee on Education: Principals—H. H. Sweets, R. H. McCaslin, J. P. Robertson, C. C. Carson, L. Ross Lynn. Alternates—E. E. Smith, S. E. Hodges, John Van Lear, L. R. Walker, J. G. Venable, with C. E. Diehl to take the place of J. R. Dobbins, removed from the Synod of Tennessee.

(19) That W. J. Reubel, Wade Shelman, G. H. Mourning, T. M. Hawes, D. D., and Dr. A. J. A. Alexander be re-elected to serve for a term of three years on the Executive Committee of Christian Education and Ministerial Relief.

(20) That the Assembly express its appreciation of the fearlessly, energetic and efficient manner in which our executive secretary and committee have prosecuted the work intrusted to them.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SYSTEMATIC BENEFICENCE.

Your Standing Committee on Systematic Beneficence would respectfully report:

The following papers came into our hands, namely, the annual report of the Permanent Committee on Systematic Beneficence, the annual report of the Campaign Committee on Stewardship, the statistical reports from all Presbyteries, together with overtures from the Presbyteries of Albemarle, Lexington, Pine Bluff and Montgomery. To all these papers we have given careful consideration.

Permanent Committee on Systematic Beneficence.

The seventh annual report of the Permanent Committee of Systematic Beneficence shows earnest and diligent effort on the part of the committee. The actions have been progressive always and at the same time remarkably and splendidly sane. We recommend:

First. That the committee be commended and thanked for the efficient service it has rendered the Church during the past year.

Second. That all benevolent gifts for Church causes, whether made through the treasurer or directly by the membership of the Church, be included in the sessional report.

Third. That the secretary of the Campaign Committee on Stewardship be instructed to send to the various Presbyterial chairmen on benefices the apportionments of the Presbytery for the Assembly's causes.

Fourth. That the secretary of the Campaign Committee on Stewardship be instructed to notify these Presbyterial chairmen that it is part of the Church's plan that they ascertain the Synodical and Presbyterial apportionments, list the same with the Assembly's causes, and send to the local churches, in plain figures, the itemized amounts expected from them for these respective causes.

Fifth. That the secretary of the Campaign Committee on Stewardship be instructed to urge upon these Presbyterial chairmen the importance of carrying out this policy and of co-

operating with them in all possible ways.

Sixth. That these itemized apportionments be the minimum goal for the benevolent gifts of the local church.

Seventh. That pastors be urged to employ, throughout the year, all proper means of educating their people in the principles of Christian stewardship and in the securing of these specified amounts as the minimum for benevolence.

Eighth. Should the minimum goal be exceeded or not reached, every cause should share proportionately in the gain or loss. The provision of this section is to apply only to undesignated gifts.

Ninth. We believe that the itemized statement of the apportionments in plain figures will make clearer the meaning of the percentages in our system of benevolence.

Tenth. In view of the incessant demands made on the liberality of our people for all kinds of social, humanitarian, philanthropic and independent enterprises, to the great detriment to our great regular causes of benevolence, we ask that the General Assembly again express its judgment that the objects approved by our Church courts are of prime importance, and that the paramount and present obligation of the members of the Church is to support these objects to the extent of their fullest needs.

Eleventh. The first term of the following members expire with this meeting of the Assembly: John S. Foster, Synod of Alabama; E. W. King, Synod of Appalachia; J. B. Hutton, Synod of Mississippi; T. C. McRay, Synod of Arkansas; A. F. Davidson, Synod of Oklahoma. Alternates: Frank Tappey, Synod of Alabama; D. D. Brabson, Synod of Appalachia; A. H. Whitmarsh, Synod of Arkansas; George D. Booth, Synod of Mississippi; A. H. Ferguson, Synod of Oklahoma. We recommend their re-election for a final term of two years. We recommend also the election of Fred. S. Robins, Synod of Texas; A. D. Gilmore, Synod of South Carolina. Alternates: W. W. Bondurant, Synod of Texas; E. E. Gillespie, Synod of South Carolina, for a term of two years.

Twelfth. The complete list of the names of the nominees on this committee can be found only among the minutes of the respective Synods. We recommend that the Assembly direct the stated clerks of the Synods to send a copy of their minutes to the Permanent Committee on Systematic Beneficence.

Thirteenth. In answer to the overture from W. H. Workman and others, referred by the 1916 Assembly to the Committee on Systematic Beneficence, asking the General Assembly to constitute the treasurer of the Executive Committee of Foreign Missions a general treasurer, whose duty it shall be to receive all contributions for all causes of the Assembly's Systematic Beneficences, for and to distribute the same among the various causes be remitted by him to the respective treasurers of the various committees at the close of each month. We recommend that the Assembly endorse the answer of the Permanent Committee on Systematic Beneficence, which was in the negative, believing it to be conducive neither to economy, efficiency, or liberality.

Fourteenth. In response to the overture of D. H. Ralston and others, relative to a change of plan of our Assembly in the systematic benefices, referred to the Permanent Committee on Systematic Beneficence by the last Assembly, we recommend that in view of the fact that the parties themselves have expressed some doubt as to the wisdom of the change, and also believing that it were best to put our present plan into more successful operation, we recommend that the Assembly answer the overture in the negative.

Fifteenth. We recommend that the same schedule of months be used by these churches now using the Every Member Canvass plan, as were used last year, and that the Foreign Mission Committee be allowed to make a special appeal during the last two weeks of January.

Sixteenth. We recommend that the following amounts be named as a minimum for the Assembly's causes for the year 1918-1919, as that which is needed to maintain the work on its present basis:

Foreign Missions\$ 732,600.00
Home Missions 356,400.00
Christian Education and	

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